Council Highlights: October, 2000

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS is intended to provide quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). It is produced regularly throughout the academic year.

This issue covers the months of June, July, August and September 2000.

Deputy Ministers attend roundtable with university presidents

Executive Heads held their first roundtable of the 2000-2001 academic year on October 6 and, for the first half of the morning session, were joined by several deputy ministers and senior provincial government officials. Each provided an update on priorities that exist within her or his respective area. The updates were then followed by a general discussion on how universities can work with government for the good of the people and province.

In attendance from the Government of Ontario were:

- Andromache Karakatsanis, Secretary of Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Committee
- Bob Christie, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Kevin Costante, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Suzanne Herbert, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
- Barbara Miller, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Michele Noble, Secretary of Management Board of Cabinet and Deputy Minister of Management Board Secretariat
- Bryne Purchase, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology
- Colin Andersen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Integrated Policy and Planning, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Geoffrey Hare, VP, Capital Infrastructures Strategies, Ontario SuperBuild Corporation

Working Group on Performance-Based Funding continues to meet

On March 14, 2000, Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), announced a new Performance Indicators Fund that allocated $16.5 million in new funds according to institutional performance using three indicators: degree-completion rate, six-

month employment rates and two-year employment rates.

In response to the university community's concern surrounding the indicators, a joint MTCU/COU Working Group on Performance-Based Funding, co-chaired by Jamie Mackay, Director of the Universities Branch of MTCU, and Ken Snowdon, Vice-President of Policy and Analysis for COU, was established in June 2000. The Working Group, composed of staff from MTCU and representatives from seven Ontario universities, met several times over the summer to discuss issues surrounding indicator measurements and links to funding mechanisms. It is expected that a final report will be submitted to the Minister later this fall.

The members from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities are:

- Jamie Mackay, Director, Universities Branch *(Co-Chair)*
- Sharon Berman, Manager, Finance Unit
- Andrew Boggs, Research Analyst
- Glenn Craney, Senior Policy Advisor
- Barbara Hauser, Senior Policy Advisor
- Frances Lamb, Manager, Policy and Programs
- Barry McCartan, Senior Policy Advisor
- Michelle Wutscher, Senior Policy Analyst
- Gary Young, Senior Policy Analyst

The members from the Ontario university community are:

- Ken Snowdon, Vice-President, Policy and Analysis, COU *(Co-Chair)*
- Ruban Chelladurai, Director, Institutional Planning and Budgeting, University of Western Ontario
- Kerrie-Lee Clarke, Director, Institutional Analysis and Government Relations, Lakehead University
- Marty England, Director, Planning, University of Toronto
- David Holmes, Director, Institutional Research, Carleton University
- Ted Spence, Senior Policy Adviser, York University
- Paul Stenton, Director, University Planning Office, Ryerson Polytechnic University
- Bob Truman, Director, Institutional Analysis and Planning, University of Waterloo

Costante appointed new DM of Training, Colleges and Universities

In August 2000, it was announced that Kevin Costante was made the new Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Costante held the position of Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), a ministry where he served as executive co-ordinator of Estimates Planning, Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, and finally Assistant Deputy Minister of the Program Management Division. Before joining MCSS, Mr. Costante held a series of positions at the Ontario Ministry of Finance, including director of Fiscal Planning. He began his career in public service in Saskatchewan, where he worked for the Ministry of Education and the Saskatchewan Treasury Board for a total of nine years. Mr. Costante replaces Bob Christie, who was appointed Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Finance.

Research project on the impact of university education

This summer, COU commissioned the Enterprise Canada Group Inc., a policy research firm, to undertake a research project that focuses on the contribution of university education to the economic and social development of Ontario. The findings of the research project will be used to support COU's 2000-2001 advocacy efforts.

Minister announces new Investing in Students Task Force

On September 19, 2000, Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, announced the creation of the Investing in Students Task Force to look at ways to ensure that students have access to affordable, high-quality education.

The objective of the Task Force is to study college and university administrative operations across the province, specifically examining options for shared services and identifying best practices for administrative functions such as information technology, procurement and data collection.

The members of the Task Force are:

- Jalynn H. Bennett, President of Jalynn H. Bennett & Associates Ltd. and Past Chair and Honorary Member of the Board of Governors of Trent University *(Chair)*
- Jean Bédard, a lawyer with the Sotos Associates Barristers and Solicitors in Toronto
- Dr. Roderick D. Fraser, President of the University of Alberta
- Ray Ivany, President and CEO of the Nova Scotia Community College
- Courtney Pratt, President and CEO of Hydro One Networks Inc.
- Glenna Carr, CEO of Carr-Gordon Ltd. *(Executive Project Director)*

Postsecondary stakeholders from across the province will be consulted, and the Task Force will receive proposals from individual institutions. Ms. Bennett and two members of the project team, Suzanne Ellen Bogen, an associate of Carr-Gordon Ltd., and Barry Pervin, director of Ministry Secretariat supporting the Task Force, met with the Executive Heads of Ontario universities, as

well as with Academic Colleagues, to provide an overview of the process of the Task Force and to respond to questions. It is expected that a final report of the Task Force's findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Minister in January 2001.

At its October 6 meeting, Council commissioned nine working groups, co-ordinated by the Council of Senior Administrative Officers (CSAO), to develop and submit system-wide proposals to the Task Force. The CSAO Steering Committee will work in concert with representatives from CSAO and affiliated groups to develop a co-ordinated response that considers four criteria: enhancing service quality; avoiding costs; facilitating collaboration; and strengthening accountability and incentive structures. It is expected that all working groups will submit interim or final proposals to the Task Force sometime in November.

The members of the Steering Group are:

- Dr. Peter Mercer, Vice-President of Administration and Legal Counsel, University of Western Ontario *(Chair)*
- Phyllis Clark, Vice-President of Administration, York University
- Nancy Sullivan, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, University of Guelph
- Duncan Watt, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, Carleton University
- Carole Workman, Vice-Rector of Resources, University of Ottawa

Another resounding success for the Ontario Universities' Fair

The fourth annual Ontario Universities' Fair, held this year at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on September 22, 23 and 24, tops last year's successful turnout. Over 43,000 people attended the fair, up by 5,000 from last year's then record turnout of 38,000. Each of Ontario's universities and the Ontario College of Art & Design were represented at the fair, with individual information sites totalling 70,000 square feet in Exhibitor Hall.

Admissions, student services, academic and student representatives were readily available at each individual booth to provide information and answer questions from high school students and their parents. In addition, each institution provided extensive take-away information and material on undergraduate programs, and scheduled regular presentations throughout the day on aspects of university programs and life on campus.

The fair, which was chaired this year by Doug Leeies, Assistant Registrar for Recruiting at the University of Toronto at Mississauga, was organized by the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison as part of the University Information Program.

Proposals for new collaborative nursing programs submitted to Ministry

Universities and colleges submitted their proposals for the establishment of collaborative nursing programs to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) by the September 29, 2000 deadline. The proposal submissions ranged from a signed, formal agreement to a letter of intent that detailed what had been agreed to at that point as well as identified the desire and commitment to work toward signed agreements.

MTCU will be reviewing the proposals and making decisions regarding the allocation of

transition funding and the expansion of master's programs as quickly as possible.

To date, the following university-college partnerships have been proposed:

- Brock with Loyalist
- Lakehead with Confederation
- Laurentian with Cambrian, Northern and Sault (English Program)
- Laurentian with Boreal (Francophone Program)
- McMaster with Conestoga and Mohawk
- Nipissing with Canadore
- Ottawa with Algonquin (English Program)
- Ottawa with La Cité
- Queen's with St. Lawrence
- Trent with Sir Sandford Fleming
- Western with Fanshawe
- Windsor with Lambton and St.Clair
- York with Durham, Georgian and Seneca

Negotiations among Ryerson, Centennial, George Brown and Humber are ongoing.

Second annual Summer Institute on Learning Technologies

On August 15 to 17, OPAS and its industry partners SGI and IBM held the second Summer Institute on Learning Technologies at the NRC's Virtual Environment Centre on the University of Western Ontario's Research Park. Diane Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Dr. Paul Davenport, President of the University of Western Ontario and Chair of COU, opened the event, which was attended by representatives from all Ontario universities as well as from several colleges.

The participants, who were nominated to attend by their vice-president academic, were introduced to developing trends and virtual reality applications, and had an opportunity to share best practices and experiences. They also provided valuable input that will enable OPAS and COU to shape an ongoing support service for faculty who use learning technologies.

Another OUAC processing division goes on-line

The Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) has added another processing division to its popular web-based application service. On September 18, applicants to the province's Teacher Education programs began to apply via this user-friendly automated process. International applicants have been applying on-line since 1999; last year alone, more than 7,500 applicants

used the OUAC service. Non-secondary, domestic applicants joined in for the year 2000, and planning is underway to add the Medical School processing division on-line for the 2001-2002 cycle. These domestic web applications are available in both official languages.

The Centre's web site (www.ouac.on.ca) receives several thousand visitors annually. It provides hot links to all university web sites, various government sites and other related sites. With a 40% increase in Teacher Education application volume last year, the Centre is anticipating another large increase this year and the web application will ensure that the universities continue to receive accurate application data on time.

Former Executive Director of COU publishes a book

Dr. John B. Macdonald, former President of the University of British Columbia (UBC) and former Executive Director of COU, has written his memoirs, *Chances and Choices*.

The autobiography is an account of Dr. Macdonald's career spanning some 50 years, including his period as President of UBC when, through his vision and leadership, the university emerged in the 1960s from being primarily a provincial university that emphasized undergraduate studies to become one of the leading universities in North America with outstanding research capabilities. It also includes Dr. Macdonald's 10-year period as the first Executive Director of COU, from 1966 to 1976.

UBC will publish the autobiography, which will be available this November.

Update on secondary school issues

Now that the secondary school curriculum is in place, Ontario universities are revising their admission requirements to accommodate the new courses. The intention is to have university senates approve the regulations at their fall sessions so that students currently in Grade 10 can use these university prerequisites to help them select their Grade 11 program. When the information about the new requirements becomes available, COU will ensure its wide circulation.

The next phase of secondary school reform involves implementing Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses. Teachers will need explicit course profiles and detailed guidance as they prepare to offer the courses, especially since throughout the curriculum review there was a sense that the courses covered more material than was manageable. Once these courses are taught – in particular, the university-preparation (U) courses – likely further refinements in adjusting content and distinguishing between crucial and secondary material would be needed. In addition, when students graduate from the new secondary school program four years from now and enter their first-year classes, university faculty members will be able to provide an evaluation of the success of the program.

COU has initiated discussions with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, as well as with other appropriate groups within the academic community, to ensure COU's ongoing involvement not only with the secondary school curriculum but also with the professional advancement of teachers, who will need to meet the academic and technological advances reflected in the new curriculum.

COU publishes financial reports on Ontario universities

During the summer, COU published a new report as well as several reports that are updated

annually, copies of which have already been distributed to each university:

- *Compendium of Statistical and Financial Information – Ontario Universities 1998-99*, a new report from the Council of Finance Officers - Universities of Ontario (COFO-UO) and the Council on University Planning and Analysis (CUPA)
- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 1998-99, Volume I-Universities* (COFO-UO)
- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 1998-99, Volume II-Affiliated and Federated Colleges and Universities* (COFO-UO)
- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 1998-99, Supplementary Tables* (COFO-UO)
- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 1998-99, Ancillary Enterprises* (COFO-UO)